

Amendments to the Specification:

Page 1, line 1, before the "FIELD OF THE INVENTION" section, insert the following new section:

-- Cross-Reference to Related Application

The present application claims the benefit of the March 20, 2003, filing date of U.S. provisional application no. 60/456,163. --

Please replace the paragraph at page 4, lines 14-20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- U.S. Patent No. ~~4,248,945~~ 4,248,895 to Stroz et al., which is hereby incorporated by reference, shows hydrogenated starch hydrolysates having total solids contents of about 72 to 80 weight percent. Based on the dry hydrogenated starch hydrolysates, the total solids contents consist of about 4 to 20 weight percent sorbitol (hydrogenated monosaccharide), 20 to 65 weight percent hydrogenated disaccharides (e.g., maltitol), 15 to 45 weight percent tri- to hepta-hydrogenated oligosaccharides, and 10 to 35 weight percent hydrogenated polysaccharides higher than hepta. --

Please insert the following new paragraphs after the paragraph which ends on line 21 of page 6 (i.e., 4 lines up from the bottom of page 6):

-- A maltitol solution comprising 62 to 68% by weight solids and 32 to 38% by weight water, wherein the solids comprise:

- (a) 85 to 99% by weight maltitol;
- (b) 0.1 to 7% by weight sorbitol;
- (c) 0.1 to 6 % by weight HP 3 compounds; and
- (d) 0.1 to 3 % by weight HP 4+ compounds.

A method of making the maltitol solution described in the preceding paragraph, wherein said method comprises the steps of:

- (a) subjecting a feedstock comprising maltose and glucose to a hydrogenation reaction at temperatures of 100 to 190 °C under a hydrogen atmosphere at a pressure of greater than 200 psig in the presence of a hydrogenation catalyst and a reaction promoter comprising magnesium powder to produce a product comprising maltitol, sorbitol, HP 3 compounds and HP 4+ compounds; and
- (b) subjecting the product of step (a) to an ion exchange step and an evaporation step. --